

5 CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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- 10 1. A method of storing and communicating sets of topographic information to and from portable information processing and viewing devices by means of a publicly accessible network, each of the sets being specific to an individual golf course, comprising the steps of:
- 15 inputting a first set of information to a first information processing device, said first set of information being data representative of a golf course topography, said first set of information including data elements relating to attributes of the golf course, said data elements including at least one characterizing aspect and at least one location for each feature in the set;
- 20 transmitting said first set of information from the first information processing device to a publicly accessible network and providing a second information processing device access to said first set of information.
- 25 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said publicly accessible network is the Internet.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second information processing devices is a portable hand-held personal computer.
4. The method of claim 1 including the additional steps of:
- including in said first set of information data relating to the playing of a golf ball at the location of a specific attribute in the set.
5. The method of claim 1 including the additional steps of:
- including in said set of information data relating to the playing of the golf course by at least one individual.
6. The method of claim 1 including the additional steps of:
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- 5 altering the set of information accessed from the public network with said second device to  
produce a second set of information representative of the golf course topography;  
transmitting said second set of information to the publicly accessible network and  
providing access to said altered set of information.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the altering of the first set of information increases the  
10 accuracy of the data correspondence to the golf course attributes to produce a second set of  
information which is more correctly representative of the golf course than the first set.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein said location data elements include Global Positioning  
System data of varying degrees of accuracy, said degree of accuracy of the Global Positioning  
System data in said location data elements being indicated by varying depictions of the  
15 attributes in the viewing devices, said varying depictions corresponding to their respective  
Global Positioning System data degrees of accuracy.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein said location data elements include Global Positioning  
System data with varying degrees of accuracy, and said altering of the first set data includes  
the utilization of differential Global Positioning System data to increase at least one of the  
20 first set location data elements degree of accuracy.
10. The method of claim 1 including the additional steps of:  
storing said first set of information in a publicly accessible database, said database further  
storing additional sets of information representative of a plurality of golf courses; and  
providing access over said network to the stored sets of information in the database.
- 25 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the stored sets of information accessed from the database  
are alterable following accessing.

- 5 12. The method of claim 10 wherein said database is accessible by Internet connection to a web site, said web site providing the information sets in a form accessible with a web browser.
- 10 13. A system of storing and communicating sets of topographic information to and from portable information processing and viewing devices by means of a publicly accessible network, each of the sets being specific to an individual golf course, comprising the steps of:
- 15 a first information processing device receiving input of a first set of information, said first set of information being data representative of a golf course topography, said first set of information including data elements relating to attributes of the golf course, said data elements including at least one characterizing aspect and a location for each attribute in the set;
- 20 a central information processing site and database receiving said set of information from said first information processing device and providing access to said set over a publicly accessible network; and
- 25 a second information processing device receiving transmission of said first set of information from the first information processing device over the publicly accessible network.
14. The system of claim 13 wherein said publicly accessible network is the Internet.
15. The system of claim 13 wherein at least one of said first and second information processing devices is a portable hand-held personal computer.
16. The system of claim 13 including adding to said first set of information data relating to the playing of a golf ball at the location of a specific attribute in the set.

5 17. The system of claim 13 including adding to said first set of information data relating to the playing of the golf course by at least one individual.

18. The system of claim 13 including altering with said second device the set of information accessed from the public network to produce a second set of information representative of the golf course topography; and

10 transmitting said second set of information over the publicly accessible network to the central information processing site and database, said central site then selectively providing access to said altered set of information over the publicly accessible network.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the altering of the first set of information increases the accuracy of the data correspondence to the golf course attributes to produce a second set of information which is more correctly representative of the golf course than the first set.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein said location data elements include Global Positioning System data of varying degrees of accuracy, said degree of accuracy of the Global Positioning System data in said location data elements being indicated by varying depictions of the attributes in the viewing devices, said varying depictions corresponding to their respective Global Positioning System data degrees of accuracy.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein said location data elements include Global Positioning System data with varying degrees of accuracy, and said altering of the first set data includes the utilization of differential Global Positioning System data to increase at least one of the first set location data elements degree of accuracy.

25 22. The system of claim 13 wherein said central site and database further contains additional sets of information representative of a plurality of golf courses; and provides access over said network to the additional sets of golf courses information in the database.

5 23. The system of claim 22 wherein the stored sets of information accessed from the database are alterable following accessing.

24. The system of claim 22 wherein said database is accessible by Internet connection to a web site, said web site providing the information sets in a form accessible with a web browser.

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